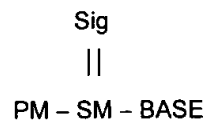


**In the Claims:**

Amend claims 238, 272 and 308 as follows:

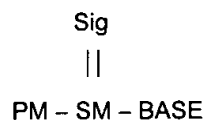
238. (Four Times Amended) An oligo- or polynucleotide capable of hybridizing with or binding to a nucleic acid sequence of interest, said oligo- or polynucleotide comprising at least one chemically modified nucleotide having the formula:



wherein PM is a phosphate moiety, SM is a sugar moiety comprising a pentose sugar selected from the group consisting of a ribose, [or] a deoxyribose[,] and a dideoxyribose, and BASE is a pyrimidine, purine or 7-deazapurine moiety, said PM being covalently attached to [the] a position of SM selected from the group consisting of the C2', [or] the C3' [or] and the C5' position [of SM], said BASE being covalently attached to the 1' position of SM from the N<sup>1</sup> position when BASE is a pyrimidine or the N<sup>9</sup> position when BASE is a purine or 7-deazapurine, and said Sig is covalently attached to a position of SM selected from the group consisting of the C2', [or] the C3' [or] and the C5' position [of SM] directly or through a linkage group and Sig is a moiety which is detectable when said nucleotide is incorporated into a double-stranded nucleic acid duplex or complex.

Claim 272, line 1, after "A" and before "nucleotide" insert -- chemically modified -- .

308. (Four Times Amended) A composition comprising a polymeric compound capable of hybridizing with or binding to a nucleic acid sequence of interest, said composition having attached directly or indirectly thereto at least one chemically modified nucleotide having the formula:



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wherein PM is a phosphate moiety, SM is a sugar moiety comprising a pentose sugar selected from the group consisting of a ribose, [or] a deoxyribose[,] and a dideoxyribose, and BASE is a pyrimidine, purine or 7-deazapurine moiety, said PM being covalently attached to [the] a position of SM selected from the group consisting of the C2', [or] the C3' [or] and the C5' position [of SM], said BASE being covalently attached to the 1' position of SM from the N<sup>1</sup> position when BASE is a pyrimidine or the N<sup>9</sup> position when BASE is a purine or 7-deazapurine, and said Sig is covalently attached to a position of SM selected from the group consisting of the C2', [or] the C3' [or] and the C5' position [of SM], and Sig is a moiety which is detectable when said nucleotide is incorporated into a double-stranded nucleic acid duplex or complex.

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